

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 06434 110910Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7214
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6434

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US
SUBJECT: EMBASSY PROTESTS MILITIA INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO
EMBASSY PREMISES

1. POLITICAL COUNSELLOR CALLED ON FEDOSEYEV OF MFA ON
MAY 10 AND DELIVERED NOTE PROTESTING MILITIA INTER-
FERENCE WITH ACCESS OF SOVIET CITIZENS TO EMBASSY ON
CONSULAR BUSINESS AND TO APARTMENTS OF EMBASSY OFFICERS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY AGAIN FINDS IT NECESSARY
TO PROTEST STRONGLY TO THE MINISTRY CONCERNING SEVERAL
INSTANCES IN WHICH SOVIET CITIZENS WHO HAD BEEN PRE-
VIOUSLY INVITED TO VISIT THE CHANCERY OR THE RESIDENCES
OF EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO EMBASSY
FACILITIES BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

AS THE MINISTRY IS AWARE, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BETWEEN
FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 4 BENJAMIN FAYN, JOSIF BEGUN
AND VLADIMIR PRESTIN, WHO HAD ALL BEEN INVITED
TO THE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS CONSULAR MATTERS, WERE
PHYSICALLY DENIED ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY. THESE
INCIDENTS WERE THE SUBJECTS OF NOTES NUMBER 192
OF MARCH 1 AND 198 OF MARCH 3 FROM THE EMBASSY TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 06434 110910Z

THE MINISTRY.

ON APRIL 18 AND AGAIN ON APRIL 21 LYUDMILA KUZNETSOVA
WAS TWICE REFUSED ACCESS TO THE CHANCERY COMPOUND.
IN EACH CASE, SHE HAD BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND A SOCIAL
FUNCTION AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE,
GENERAL WOLD. THE INCIDENT OF APRIL 18 WAS THE

SUBJECT OF EMBASSY NOTE NUMBER 453 OF APRIL 21. THE EMBASSY WISHES IN THE PRESENT NOTE TO PROTEST THE INCIDENT OF APRIL 21.

ON APRIL 9, IN THE PRESENCE OF A CONSULAR OFFICER, THE SOVIET MILITSIA OFFICERS ON DUTY AT NUMBER 7 KUTUZOVSKIY PROSPEKT REFUSED TO ALLOW ALEXANDER SLEPAK TO VISIT THE RESIDENCE OF COMMANDER PAUL LASKO OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE.

THE MOST RECENT INCIDENT OCCURRED ON MAY 7. ON THAT OCCASION VLADIMIR SLEPAK AND ALEXANDER SLEPAK WERE PREVENTED BY THE MILITSIA ON DUTY AT 18 ULITSA DONSKAYA FROM VISITING THE RESIDENCE OF EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY JOSEPH A. PRESEL. AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE INCIDENT OF APRIL 9 INVOLVING ALEXANDER SLEPAK, AND EMBASSY OFFICER WAS PRESENT AND OBSERVED THE ENTIRE INCIDENT.

THE EMBASSY PROTESTS THE CONTINUING ATTEMPTS BY SOVIET MILITSIA OFFICERS TO HINDER EMBASSY OFFICERS FROM RECEIVING SOVIET CITIZENS IN THEIR RESIDENCES OR AT THE CHANCERY. AS THE EMBASSY HAS SAID BEFORE, THE PREVENTION OF PERSONS OF ANY NATIONALITY FROM HAVING ACCESS TO THE RESIDENCES AND OFFICES OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IS IN CONTRAVENTION OF LONG ESTABLISHED AND ACCEPTABLE DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE. IN THIS CONNECTION THE EMBASSY MUST POINT OUT THAT THE POLICE AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON, SAN FRANCISCO AND NEW YORK DO NOT HINDER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 06434 110910Z

THE ACCESS OF AMERICAN OR OTHER CITIZENS TO THE OFFICES AND RESIDENCES OF SOVIET OFFICIALS SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES. THE EMBASSY EXPECTS IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO INSURE THAT ALL SOVIET AUTHORITIES CEASE INFRINGING UPON THE RIGHTS OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO RECEIVE THOSE PERSONS WHOM THEY WISH TO SEE. EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MOSCOW, MAY 10, 1977. END TEXT.

2. AFTER READING NOTE, POLITICAL COUNSELLOR ADDED COMMENT THAT INCIDENTS DESCRIBED IN NOTE NOT ONLY VIOLATED LONG ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE BUT ALSO CONTRAVENED SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. HE THEN PROTESTED TO FEDOSEYEV ADDITIONAL INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON MAY 6 AT ENTRANCE OF US COMMERCIAL OFFICE. WHEN A SOVIET CITIZEN ATTEMPTED TO ENTER PREMISES OF COMMERCIAL OFFICE, MILITIA MAN

PURSUED HIM INTO VESTIBULE AND HAULED HIM OUT TO

THE STEPS WHERE THE ENSUING SCUFFLE WAS WITNESSED BY COMATT. POLITICAL COUNSELLOR STRESSED THAT EMBASSY TAKES A VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF ALL THE INCIDENTS DESCRIBED IN PROTEST NOTE AS WELL AS ONE WHERE MILITIA MEMBER ACTUALLY INTERCEPTED A SOVIET CITIZEN ON THE PREMISES OF THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE.

4. FEDOSEYEV SAID THAT SINCE HE DID NOT REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AND GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES THAT DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS OF SUCH INCIDENTS OFTEN VARY WIDELY, HE COULD NOT ACCEPT ASSERTIONS CONTAINED IN PROTEST. THE AID OF THE MILITIA IS TO ASSURE SAFETY OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND SECURITY OF DIPLOMATIC PREMISES, AND "OUR COUNTRY, TOO, HAS ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE INCLUDING MENTALLY UNBALANCED." POLITICAL COUNSELLOR REPLIED THAT HE HEARD THIS EXPLANATION BEFORE, BUT THAT IT DID NOT EVEN REMOTELY APPLY TO INCIDENTS IN QUESTION WHICH HAD BEEN WITNESSED BY EMBOFFS. HE STRESSED AGAIN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 06434 110910Z

SERIOUS NATURE OF INCIDENTS. FEDOSEYEV CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT HE WOULD STUDY AND PASS OUR NOTE TO HIS SUPERIORS.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE ADJUSTED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE (PARA 4 OF MOSCOW 6365) SO AS TO CONFIRM ON "IF ASKED" BASIS THAT SLEPAK WAS AGAIN REFUSED ENTRY TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER'S FLAT AND THAT WE HAVE PROTESTED TO MFA. END COMMENT.
TOON

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